



During 2023 we held four Network meetings and held our first conference:

Listening to our Youngest Children

This conference was the first annual conference of the **Children's Rights in Early Years (CREY) network**. Delegates heard from numerous inspirational and knowledgeable speakers, from across the UK, about sharing best practice and current work around listening to the voices of young children.

The conference highlighted the **importance of engaging with our youngest of children** and how even babies can have a voice.

[Children in Wales | Listening to our Youngest Children - Perspectives from across the UK](#)

We received updates from the two Welsh Government representatives on our Network.

- Early Childhood Education, Play Learning and Care, Early Years, Childcare and Play Division
- Children's Rights, Children and Families Division
- The Children's Commissioners Office **share the findings of the Ambitions for Wales (AfW)** and provided insight into the engagement methods used to support young children. [Ambitions for Wales - Children's Commissioner for Wales \(childcomwales.org.uk\)](https://childcomwales.org.uk)

Baby's Rights in Wales – Cwm Taf Early Years Transformation Programme shared the work they are undertaking in relation to [Baby Voice – click here to find out more](#).

Contributed to the **Welsh Government consultation** in regards the Early Years Resource related to Guidance and resources for communicating and engaging on the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020.

We heard about the **Children's Participation in Schools Project**, find out more here: [Home | Children's Participation in Schools \(childrens-participation.org\)](https://childrens-participation.org)

We have used your feedback to plan for the year ahead and have a range of topic areas including:

- Welsh Government update and plans
- Children's commissioners' priorities and projects
- ECEC Quality Framework – Children's Rights posters
- Invisibility of babies in CRC
- ESRC participation in practice

We have also changed our meeting times to 1-2.30pm in response to feedback.